

High School Summer Reading Book List—2011

Each student will be required to choose a book to read over the summer. Upon returning to school, each student will turn in a questionnaire about his or her summer reading as well as participate in a book talk in front of the class.

English 9

Book

Author

Whirligig

Paul Fleischman

While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he causes, sixteen-year-old Brent finds forgiveness and atonement. YA novel.

Uglies

Scott Westerfield

Transformation into a super beauty on her sixteenth birthday and reuniting with her friend Peris will only happen if Tally Youngblood's friend Shay also agrees to the operation. YA novel.

Something for Joey

Richard Peck

This book depicts the courageous and loving relationship between outstanding running back and Heisman Trophy winner John Cappelletti and his younger brother Joey, dying from leukemia. Nonfiction.

Slam

Nick Hornby

At the age of fifteen, Sam Jones's girlfriend gets pregnant and Sam's life of skateboarding and daydreaming about Tony Hawk changes drastically. YA novel.

*Mature themes.

The Member of the Wedding

Carson McCullers

12 year-old tomboy Frankie Addams dreams of going on the honeymoon with her brother and his new bride. Frankie feels disconnected from the world as she searches for a way out of her sleepy Southern hometown. Classic fiction.

Stargirl

Jerry Spinelli

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. YA novel.

A Night to Remember

Walter Lord

This nonfiction book documents the sinking of the R.M.S. Titanic on that fateful night in 1912. It is considered one of the primary resource on this subject. Nonfiction

Jane Eyre

Charlotte Bronte

Written in first person narrative style, the reader is introduced to 10 year old orphan Jane Eyre. The novel follows Jane's life as she lives in an abusive foster home then moves through various stages of her life including employment and romance. Classic novel.

The Afterlife

Gary Soto

A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in he restroom of a club where he has gone to dance. YA novel.

English 10

The Hobbit

J. K. K. Tolkein

A prequel to Tolkein's famous trilogy *Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit* introduces Bilbo Baggins on a fantasy adventure to capture his share of the dragon's treasure. Classic fantasy fiction.

Rebecca

Daphne DuMaurier

With a strong literary presence but unnamed by author DuMaurier, the main character battles the memory of her new husband's first wife. She faces further conflict in the form of one of literature's most famous female villains, housekeeper Mrs. Danvers. Classic fiction.

The Three Musketeers

Alexandre Dumas

An adventure story full of danger, intrigue and conflict. Join d'Artagnan in his mission to be a member of the king's infamous Musketeers. Classic novel.

Anthem

Ayn Rand

Rand explores the future where individuality is lost and mankind must suffer the consequences of its irrational policies. Classic novella.

Into the Wild

Jon Krakauer

The true story of Christopher McCandless who chose to "return to nature" in the wilds of Alaska. The book chronicles his ill-fated fight for survival in an abandoned school bus. Nonfiction.

The Water is Wide

Pat Conroy

This autobiographical narrative is based on the true story of a man who gave a year of his life to give the families of Yamacraw Island in South Carolina, a new way of life through his teaching and compassion. Nonfiction.

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes

Chris Crutcher

The daily class discussions about the nature of man, the existence of God, abortion, organized religion, suicide and other contemporary issues serve as a backdrop for a high-school senior's attempt to answer a friend's dramatic cry for help. YA novel.

* Mature themes

***The Curious Incident of
the Dog in the Night-Time***

Mark Haddon

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. Fiction.

Deathwatch

Robb White

After a tragic death on a hunting trip, the hunting guide becomes the hunted in this novel of high adventure and mystery. YA novel.

English 11

Wuthering Heights

Emily Bronte

Heathcliff yearns for his dead wife Catherine in this classic gothic tale of love, mystery and tragedy. Classic fiction.

The Bluest Eye

Toni Morrison

Told from multiple narratives, the story depicts the life of Claudia MacTeer through her tragedies and triumphs. Set in the post-depression Midwest, Morrison explores the effects of racism and abuse on the human psyche. Fiction.

* Mature themes.

Live from the Battlefield

Peter Arnett

War correspondent and CNN reporter, Peter Arnett details his reporting and life from Vietnam to Bagdad in this engaging autobiography. Nonfiction.

Enrique's Journey

Sonia Nazario

Addresses the issues of family and illegal immigration through the story of a young boy's dangerous journey from Honduras to the U.S. in search of his mother, who left him and his sibling behind to make a better life for her family. Nonfiction.

*Mature themes

Thirteen Reasons Why

Jay Asher

When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death. YA novel.

* Mature themes.

Nineteen Minutes

Jodi Picoult

An intense fictionalized account of bullying and school violence as Picoult gets inside the mind of a school shooter and the effects of his actions on the small town of Sterling, New Hampshire and on his family. Fiction.

* Mature themes

Catcher in the Rye

J. D. Salinger

Sixteen-year-old Holden Caulfield leaves his prep school life and goes to New York City for a couple of days. In this American classic, narrator Holden views the adult world with cynicism and disillusionment. Classic fiction.

Invisible

Pete Hautman

Doug and Andy are unlikely best friends--one a loner obsessed by his model trains, the other a popular student involved in football and theater--who grew up together and share a bond that nothing can sever. YA novel.

*Mature themes.

English 12

Montana 1948

Larry Watson

A contemporary coming of age novel documents one summer in the life of 12 year old David Hayden. The events affecting the adults in his world hasten David's transition from innocence to experience. Fiction.

* Mature themes.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Ken Kesey

A rebel named Randle Patrick McMurphy is committed to a mental ward and challenges the authority of its dictatorial head nurse. McMurphy brings new life to the characters imprisoned by the hospital and their own situations. Fiction.

* Mature themes.

Dune

Frank Herbert

In this famous science fiction classic, Herbert weaves the tale of the desert planet Arrakis, home of the prized Melange, the "spice of spices." Intergallactic power struggles and the presence of "super humans" complicate the plot. Science fiction.

The House of Spirits

Isabel Allende

Follow the life of the Trueba family through love, life and conflict. Set against the backdrop of Chilean history, the family realizes the futility of their personal disputes in the presence of the authoritarian government. Fiction.

Nickel and Dimed

Barbara Ehrenreich

Author Barbara Ehrenreich relates her experiences from 1998 to 2000, during which time she joined the ranks of the working poor as a waitress, hotel housekeeper, cleaning woman, nursing home aide, and Wal-Mart clerk to see for herself how America's "unskilled" workers are able to survive on only \$6 or \$7 an hour. Nonfiction.

Kabul Beauty School

Deborah Rodriguez

Soon after the fall of the Taliban, in 2001, hairdresser Deborah Rodriguez went to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian aid group. Yet she found she had a gift for befriending Afghans, and once her profession became known she was eagerly sought out by Westerners desperate for a good haircut and by Afghan women. Nonfiction.

Marcelo in the Real World

Francisco X. Stork

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. Fiction.

I am the Messenger

Markus Zusak

After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness. YA novel.

The Stand

Stephen King

Steven King creates a post apocalyptic vision of America where good vs. evil in it's new capital, Sin City – Las Vegas. Fiction.

* Mature themes.

Emma

Jane Austen

Mystery, romance and intrigue pave the way for Austen's matchmaking heroine in this favorite classic novel. Classic fiction.

The Glass Castle

Jeannette Walls

In her unforgettable memoir, writer Jeannette Walls details her childhood under the care of passionate yet dysfunctional parents. Nonfiction.

* Mature themes.